THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI R. VELU): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Out of 317 claims cases filed in Railway Claims tribunal, compensation has been paid in 314 claims cases and 3 claims cases are pending in High Court, Chandigarh.

Tatkal Reservation Scheme

2701. SHRI DATTA MEGHE: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that rail passengers can now get confirmed railway tickets under the Tatkal Reservation Scheme 72 hours in advance;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether it is also a fact that under this scheme, a passenger has to purchase ticket upto the termination place of the train;

(d) if so, the details thereof and reasons therefor;

(e) whether any corrective measures are being taken in this regard; and

(f) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI R. VELU): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The advance reservation period under Tatkal Reservation scheme has been enhanced to three days i.e. in respect of train leaving on say 4th January 2006, Tatkal booking will commence at 8 am on 1st January, 2006.

(c) and (d) To ensure optimum utilization of available accommodation under the scheme it was stipulated that the booking under Tatkal scheme will be done only from originating to terminating point of the train with boarding facility from intermediate station. An exception has been given in case of those trains, whcih have an important intermediate station having adequate quota. In such a case Tatkal reservation scheme is available for the passengers originating from this intermediate station to destination of the train.

(e) and (f) Instructions have been issued to zonal railways to earmark some Tatkal accommodation at one intermediate station in those trains in

which the present Tatkal accommodation occupation is low, at the train originating station.

Looting in North-East Express

2702. SHRIMATI SYEDA ANWARA TAIMUR: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that a group of four armed Government Railway Police (GRP) constables looted dozens of passengers in general compartments of the 2506-down North-East Express between Tundla and Kaurara stations near Etawah recently;

(b) if so, what action Government have taken against culprits; and

(c) the steps taken to ensure fearless journey to all the North Eastern Railway passengers?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI R. VELU): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. On 25.10.2005, three train escorting personnel of Government Railway Police (GRP)/Tundla looted the passengers of General Second Class in Coach No.3117-ANF of Train No. 2506 Dn. (North-East Express) in between Tundla and Kaurara Railway Station after beating the passengers. Later on the train was stopped by the affected passengers. 03 GRP personnel were arrested by Civil Police, Sirsaganj and the case transferred to Government Railway Police/Tundla.

All the 03 Government Railway Police personnel have been placed under suspension. A case has been registered against the 03 Government Railway Policy personnel under Crime No. 47/05, under Section 394 IPC at Government Railway Police Station, Tundla, Uttar Pradesh. Shri Shyam Lal Verma, Station House Officer, GRP/Ferozabad has been appointed as the Investigating Officer.

(c) To provide better security to the travelling passengers in trains and passenger areas, the Railway Protection Force (RPF) Act, 1957 and the Railways Act, 1989 have been amended to enable the Railways, through the RPF, to effectively supplement the efforts of the State Governments in controlling crime on the Railways. The Railway Protection Force staff are being deployed to escort many trains and deployed in the passenger area